

# INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No  
PCT/EP2005/050426

## A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC 7 G01D21/02

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

## B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

IPC 7 G01D

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

EPO-Internal, WPI Data

## C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	EP 0 985 915 A (NEW HOLLAND U.K. LIMITED) 15 March 2000 (2000-03-15) paragraph '0012! - paragraph '0037!	1
A	DE 199 07 950 A1 (SIEMENS AG) 14 September 2000 (2000-09-14) column 2, line 2 - column 5, line 22	1
A	US 6 115 654 A (EID ET AL) 5 September 2000 (2000-09-05) column 4, line 10 - column 11, line 24	1

☐ Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.

☒ Patent family members are listed in annex.

### \* Special categories of cited documents:

\*A\* document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance

\*E\* earlier document but published on or after the international filing date

\*L\* document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)

\*O\* document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means

\*P\* document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

\*T\* later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention

\*X\* document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone

\*Y\* document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art.

\*G\* document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

12 August 2005

Date of mailing of the international search report

22/08/2005

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Patent document cited in search report		Publication date	Patent family member(s)		Publication date
EP 0985915	A	15-03-2000	US	5982290 A	09-11-1999
			EP	0985915 A2	15-03-2000
DE 19907950	A1	14-09-2000	FR	2790083 A1	25-08-2000
US 6115654	A	05-09-2000	DE	69809965 D1	16-01-2003
			DE	69809965 T2	27-11-2003
			EP	1235050 A2	28-08-2002
			EP	1040322 A1	04-10-2000
			WO	9932856 A1	01-07-1999

**Re Box V.**

**Reasoned statement with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability;  
citations and explanations supporting such statement**

1 Reference is made to the following documents:

D1 : EP 0 985 915 A (NEW HOLLAND U.K. LIMITED) March 15, 2000 (2000-03-15)

D2 : DE 199 07 950 A1 (SIEMENS AG) September 14, 2000 (2000-09-14)

D3 : US 6 115 654 A (EID ET AL) September 5, 2000 (2000-09-05)

2 Document D1 is regarded as the closest prior art. It discloses (the references in parentheses relate to this document): A method having the following steps (see paragraph 0021) for recognizing a sensor type, from which the subject of independent claim 1 differs in that: A first condition is checked that will have been met if a sensor's measuring signal exceeds a first threshold, - a second condition will be checked if the first has been met, with the second condition having been met if a gradient of the measuring signal is greater in amount than a predefined second threshold, if the first and second condition have been met, then a sensor having a signal-value-range multiplex output for the measuring signal will be recognized, and if at least one of the conditions has not been met, then a sensor not having a signal-value-range multiplex output for the measuring signal will be recognized.

2.1 The subject of claim 1 is thus novel (Article 33 (2) PCT).

The object to be achieved by means of the present invention can hence be seen in providing a method by means of which a sensor type having a signal-value-range multiplex output and a sensor type not having a signal-value-range multiplex output can be recognized simply (see page 1, lines 8-21).

2.2 The method proposed for achieving said object in claim 1 of the present application is based on an inventive activity (Article 33(3) PCT) because its features are neither

disclosed by the available state of the art nor are obvious from said state.

- 3 Claims 2-5 are dependent on claim 1 and so likewise fulfill the PCT requirements in terms of novelty and inventive activity.